

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AF-06 L-03

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 679

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1781

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAID, EEC, ACP, PNG, HA

SUBJECT: ENLARGEMENT OF THE LOME CONVENTION

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 2190,/*

.(*

#OF THE CASEY/SOAMES UNDERSTANDING. THESE

"ACP-ELIGIBLES" ARE GENERALLY OF LITTLE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE, THOUGH SOME, IN PARTICULAR THE FORMER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN AFRICA, ARE OF CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY. ONE COUNTRY, HAITI, THOUGH NOT CONSIDERED "ELIGIBLE", COULD BE A PROBLEM FOR THE US WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE CASEY SOAMES UNDERSTANDING IF IT SHOULD PRESS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

3. OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: SEY-
CHELLES, THE COMORO ISLANDS AND SURINAM ARE NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES FORMERLY INCLUDED UNDER THE OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES ANNEX IV OF THE TREATY OF ROME AS AMENDED BY THE ACCESSION TREATY. THESE FORMER DEPENDENT TERRITORIES OF THE EC-9 ARE COVERED BY ARTICLE 89 OF LOME AND ARE AUTOMATICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR ACP STATUS UPON INDEPENDENCE. FINANCIALLY

ADMISSION OF OCTS TO ACP STATUS DOES NOT AFFECT THE AMOUNT OF LOME AID AVAILABLE, AS EACH OCT'S SHARE OF FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE OCT GROUP (160 MILLION UA OVER FOUR YEARS) UNDER THEIR OWN "EDF" IS SIMPLY TRANSFERRED FOR ITS USE UNDER THE LOME CONVENTION. THE EC/ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MUST APPROVE THESE APPLICATIONS, BUT THIS IS CONSIDERED A PRO FORMA STEP. COMMISSION SOURCES NOTE THAT FORMER BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN, THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, AND THE GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS WILL PROBABLY BE THE NEXT GROUP OF OCTS MOVING INTO POSITION FOR ACP STATUS.

4. FORMER EUROPEAN (NON-EC/9) POSSESSIONS IN AFRICA
(I.E. FORMER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES): EXISTING CANDIDATES
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ARE SAO TOME AND PRINCIPLE, AND THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS. MOZAMBIQUE IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE MADE INFORMAL APPROACHES. ANGOLA WOULD ALSO BE ELIGIBLE AS WOULD OTHER BLACK AFRICAN TERRITORIES ON INDEPENDENCE--SPECIFICALLY NAMIBIA, AND BY INFERENCE, RHODESIA. (IT IS NOT YET CLEAR TO US WHETHER ANGOLA IS ATTEMPTING TO PRESS THIS ISSUE--SEE REF A. (IN ANY CASE THIS RAISES HIGH POLITICAL QUESTIONS THIS CABLE DOES NOT DISCUSS.) CANDIDATURES IN THIS GROUPING ARE NOT "AUTOMATIC" IN THE SENSE OF ARTICLE 89 OF LOME. THEY ARE COVERED, BUT NOT LISTED, BY ARTICLE 90 WHICH SPECIFIES THAT "ANY REQUEST FOR ACCESSION TO THIS CONVENTION SUBMITTED BY A STATE WHOSE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND PRODUCTION ARE COMPARABLE WITH THOSE OF THE ACP STATES SHALL REQUIRE APPROVAL BY THE EC/ACP) COUNCIL OF MINISTERS." SUCH COUNTRIES MUST FIRST NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE EC (I.E. TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE EDF, STABEX, ETC., SO THAT EXISTING ACPs ARE NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED), AND THEN BE APPROVED BY THE EC/ACP COUNCIL. CANDIDACY AND ACCESSION FOR THIS GROUPING IS THUS SOMEWHAT MORE INVOLVED THAN FOR THE OCTS, BUT OUR COMMISSION AND PERMDEL CONTACTS INDICATE THAT IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT APPLICATIONS FROM THESE COUNTRIES WILL BE SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDERED.

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5. OTHER CATEGORIES UNDER THE ACCESSION TREATY: THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT CONCERNING NEW APPLICANTS INVOLVES PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG), WHICH HAD DELIVERED FORMAL LETTERS OF APPLICATION TO THE COMMISSION AND THE EC COUNCIL PRESIDENCY AND HAS MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE NINE ON BEHALF OF ITS CANDIDACY (REF B). COREPER IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING THE REQUEST. (THE FRENCH PROBLEM IS SET OUT IN REFTEL C.) ON FEBRUARY 25 THE COMMISSION ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS SENDING A COMMUNICATION TO THE EC COUNCIL RECOMMENDING A FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO PNG'S REQUEST, STRESSING THE UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF PNG'S APPLICATION: PNG'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EC IS COVERED UNDER ARTICLE 116 OF THE TREATY OF ACCESSION (THOUGH THIS WAS A TEMPORARY PROVISION); IT IS A COMMONWEALTH COUNTRY COVERED BY THE 1963 DECLARATION OF INTENT; IT IS A MEMBER OF TWO REGIONAL COOPERATION GROUPINGS WITH OTHER ACP COUNTRIES (SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM, SOUTH PACIFIC ECONOMIC COMMISSION). THE COMMISSION, BOTH IN ITS COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL AND IN ITS FEB. 25 PUBLIC STATEMENT, STRESSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT PNG'S ACCESSION, ON THESE GROUNDS, IS UNIQUE AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A PRECEDENT.

6. OTHER COMMONWEALTH TERRITORIES: INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH THE BRITISH HERE GIVE US THE IMPRESSION THAT EVENTUAL ACCESSION TO LOME IS NOT EXCLUDED FOR SEVERAL OTHER BRITISH DEPENDENCIES OR COMMONWEALTH TERRITORIES SUCH AS NAURU OR THE COOK ISLANDS.

7. HAITI: BEYOND THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT TERRITORIES COVERD IN PARAS 2 THROUGH 6, HAITI IS THE ONE REMAINING STATE WHICH HAS INDICATED SOME INTEREST IN ACP STATUS, THOUGH IT HAS MADE NO FORMAL APPLICATION SINCE THE FAILURE OF ITS EFFORTS IN 1974. THE HAITIANS DID, HOWEVER, SEND A LETTER TO THE COMMISSION, DATED SEPT. 10, 1975, REQUESTING AID UNDER THE TERMS OF THE LOME CONVENTION AND EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THE STABEX SCHEME, THROUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY REQUESTING MEMBERSHIP IN THE CONVENTION. (TEXT SENT TO EUR/RPE.) COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE MAIN IMPETUS FOR HAITIAN INTEREST IS THE HAITIAN AMBASSADOR HERE, NOT PRESSURE FROM PORT AU PRINCE. WE UNDERSTAND THERE IS LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR A HAITIAN CANDIDACY AMONGST THE ACPS, AND EVEN LESS IN THE EC-9 (THOUGH THE FRENCH ARE REPORTED TO BE SYMPATHETIC, PARTLY AT LEAST AS A COUNTER TO THE UK'S SUPPORT OF PNG). CENTRAL TO A POSSIBLE FUTURE HAITIAN CANDIDACY IS ITS STATUS VIS- A-VIS CARICOM, WHOSE MEMBER ARE SIGNATORIES TO LOME. IF HAITI SUCCEEDS IN GAINING MEMBERSHIP TO THAT REGIONAL GROUPING (WHICH LOOKS QUITE DOUBTFUL BECAUSE OF CARICOM RESISTANCE) THEN THE ACPS COULD HAVE DIFFICULTY OPPOSING THEIR ACCESSION. COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAVE RECENTLY RECONFIRMED THE OPINION (REFTEL D) THAT IF HAITI ENTER CARICOM THE COMMISSION IS UNLIKELY TO OPPOSE A SUBSEQUENT ACP CANDIDATURE.

8. RELATIONSHIP TO CASEY/SOAMES: THIS MESSAGE HAS DESCRIBED THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF COUNTRIES FOR WHOM ACP ELIGIBILITY IS ENVISIONED. CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THEY MEET THE GEO-GRAPHIC LIMITS CRITERIA OF CASEY/SOAMES (REFTELS E AND F), IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE WEIGHT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT MOST CATEGORIES ARE CLEARLY COVERED WHILE A FEW ARE LESS CLEAR. PARA 2 DEALT WITH THE OCTS, COVERED BY THE TREATY OF ROME AND THE TREATY OF ACCESSION AND SEEMS CLEARLY CASEY/SOAMES "ACCEPTABLE". PARA 3 DEALT WITH "OTHER INDEPENDENT BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES" AND HERE THE SITUATION IS SLIGHTLY LESS CLEAR. NEVERTHELESS WE NOTE THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS (REFTELS G, H, AND I) THE US HAS INTERPRETED CASEY/SOAMES TO INCLUDE "ALL OF BLACK AFRICA". PARA 4 DEALT WITH PNG WHICH IS EVEN LESS CLEAR, BUT CAN ARGUABLY BE INCLUDED AS AN INDEPENDENT FORMER TERRITORY WITH SPECIAL RELATIONS WITH ONE OF THE EC-9 (REF G). HAITI, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS NOT DEFENSIBLE ON ANY GROUNDS UNDER THE ORIGINAL CASEY/SOAMES CONCEPTION. IT IS NOT COVERED IN ANY OF THE EC TREATIES OR ORAL STATEMENTS AND IS CERTAINLY BEYOND THE PARAMETERS OF CASEY/SOAMES.

THE ONLY ARGUMENT THAT IS USED IN ITS SUPPORT HINGES ON THE POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL CARICOM MEMBERSHIP. THE US OPPOSED PREVIOUS EFFORTS BY HAITI TO JOIN THE LOME NEGOTIATIONS (REF D AND G).

9. RECOMMENDATION: THIS BELIEVES THAT IN VIEW OF EVENTUAL NEW ACCESSIONS TO THE CONVENTION, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAVE A CLEAR POSITION ON THE SUBJECT OF LOME ENLARGEMENT. THOUGH THE CURRENT AND ENVISIONED APPLICATIONS DESCRIBED IN PARAS 2-6 ABOVE SEEM ADEQUATELY COVERED BY THE US/EC UNDERSTANDING, THE US DOES NEED TO FOCUS ON THE TACTICS TO FOLLOW ON A POSSIBLE APPLICATION BY HAITI. IF WE INTEND TO CONTINUE OUR PREVIOUS OPPOSITION TO HAITI'S ADMISSION, WE SHOULD NOT ONLY AGAIN TAKE THIS MATTER UP WITH THE COMMISSION, BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE SHOULD ALSO DECIDE HOW WE WISH TO MAKE OUR POINT IN THE CARIBBEAN. THIS WOULD ENTAIL TALKS WITH THE HAITIANS AND ALSO WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF CARICOM ABOUT OUR POSITION, INCLUDING HAITIAN MEMBERSHIP OF CARICOM. IF ON THE OTHER HAND, WE PLAN TO ALTER OUR OPPOSITION, WE NEED TO DECIDE HOW TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM OF THE PRECEDENT. BEFORE STIRRING UP THIS ISSUE, HOWEVER, THE FIRST STEP SHOULD BE TO GET A BETTER READING FROM OUR EMBASSY IN PORT AU PRINCE ON THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS.HINTON

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